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densed into a very narrow space. As it is distinguished rather for the merit of elaborate selection and condensation than for novelty, we forbear to make any further extracts. The character of the work may be best gathered from the following recapitulation of his labor by the author himself.

"We have exhibited, under its various aspects, that great whole, which is called Africa; we have spoken of its exterior characters, its internal constitution, and its attire of animated beings; then considering man, upon whom the possession of it is devolved, we have made researches into his race, studied his language, his manners, his social habits, criticized his origin, and taken a hasty survey of his annals; and passing from the subject itself, to its relations with our own pursuits, we have made an inquiry into the explorations which have revealed it to us, and into the correlativeness which must be established between the notions acquired, and the theatre upon which they were obtained. Such is the cycle which we have attempted to form from the scattered fragments which no one before has attempted to combine; however small may be their separate value, they swell into importance by reason of the place which they occupy in the entire picture. It is upon this that must depend the whole interest of this feeble sketch." — pp. 131, 132.

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13. — *An Inquiry into the Origin of the Antiquities of America*. By JOHN DELAFIELD, Jr. *With an Appendix, containing Notes, and a View of the Causes of the Superiority of the Men of the Northern over those of the Southern Hemisphere*; by JAMES LAKEY, M. D. Cincinnati: Published by N. G. Burgess & Co. 1839. 4to.

A QUARTO volume from what, when we studied geography, used to be known by the instructive name of the "Territory Northwest of the Ohio," is something to attract attention. And when we open it, and find it printed in a style which emulates the London press, and is seldom even attempted in America, we turn to the title-page again, to see if we did not mistake its birth-place. But there it stands, printed in good Roman characters, that none can mistake, "Published by N. G. Burgess & Co., No. 27, Pearl Street, Cincinnati, 1839." We have heard something of the book-trade of that western city, and have seen some dingy volumes from her presses. But these broad margins, these wide lines, this clear, black letter, these plates, so well drawn and lithographed,—we hardly expected to see such things come so soon from beyond the mountains; we little imagined, that the veteran brethren of the type would have so soon to be guarding their

laurels against the rivalry of these frontier-men, as we have scarcely yet taught ourselves not to call them.

But since they have come to the competition, we bid them welcome. We love good printing almost as one of the Fine Arts. A clear, black type does indeed give a force, a definite meaning, a piercing point, to good matter. Open lines and wide margins in like manner expand our capacities, and enlarge our views ; so that we may say, most truly, that good printing is one of the creative arts. While we have, therefore, cheap books and cheap engravings for general use, let us have too some works and some paintings, upon which much mechanical labor has been bestowed. Let us now and then make a reach toward ideal beauty in printing, as in every thing else.

But the book before us is, upon its face, not only remarkable for beauty ; it is equally so as the production of a Western man of business. That one of the commercial community in that great pork-mart, where such as know no better might naturally suppose, that business men are mere business men, should write a work upon a subject requiring long study and deep thought, is to us a very pleasing fact. If we had more men resembling Mr. Delafield in this respect, we should soon see their influence in promoting the only principle that can oppose the prevalent one of our day and land ; we mean Disinterestedness. Let a man love Study, Science, and Art, and he is on the way to Philanthropy and Christian Brotherhood.

With much, therefore, to prepossess us in favor of this volume, we open it, and are struck at once by a characteristic rare in our day, condensation. No words are used, that could have been dispensed with ; in truth, had the author used more words, and supplied the connecting links in his argument more fully, he would have found more readers. He states his facts so briefly, draws his inferences so directly, and avoids not only fine writing, but all explanation and detail, so entirely, that, unless we think, and weigh, and compare, and connect, we shall have a very imperfect view of his course of reasoning. Of the matter contained in this volume, a judicious manager would have made four such ; nay, a true literary French cook would have made four such from a tithe of what is here.

The work professes to be "An Inquiry into the Origin of the Antiquities of America." And by this is not meant merely an inquiry as to which of the American races originated those antiquities, but also a discussion of the origin of those races themselves. In other words, an answer is sought to two questions ;

I. What races of people built the ancient works in America ?

II. Whence and how was America peopled ?

In answer to the first question we have given to us, first, the continuity of monuments from the Great Lakes to Peru, varying at different points, from causes which our author suggests ; next, the tradition of the Delawares with regard to their coming to the country east of the Mississippi, and driving to the South the original possessors ; then, the annals of Mexico and Peru, referring their origin to the North ; and lastly, the want of any account, among the northern tribes, explaining the antiquities which were about them, and also their habits, which would never lead to the making of such works. From these facts, stated most briefly, our author draws the conclusion, that the identity of the race, which built the antiquities of the United States, with that of Mexico, and of both with that of Peru, is made so highly probable, as to throw the burden of proof upon him who doubts.

Concluding, then, that all the antiquities of America were built by one race, and that, the race known to us in Mexico and Peru, our author next inquires as to the origin of this people. He brings forward and examines their language, anatomy, mythology, hieroglyphic system, astronomy, architecture and decorations, manners and customs, illustrating all by curious plates ; and from all, clearly presented and fairly weighed, draws the conclusion, that the civilized people of America was identical with that of ancient Egypt and Hindostan, and our northern Indians the same with the Mongol race.

But he does not rest here. He goes into an examination of the origin and migrations of the ancient inhabitants of Egypt and Hindostan, the family of Cush. This portion of Mr. Delafield's work contains much curious and very interesting matter, and some with which very few are acquainted. To present it in a condensed form would be to invade his copyright, for we could not hope to compress his clear, close statements. Let it be sufficient to say, that he traces the family of Cush to Egypt, and gives us the emigration from that land again, through Persia and Siberia toward Behring's Straits, along the line of which emigration we find the evidences of this peculiar race, the builders of pyramids, mounds, immense walls, and great cities. From Behring's Straits, our author traces the southward march of this strange people in America, by means of a Mexican symbolic map, which he gives, covering nineteen feet of paper, and thus puts the key-stone to his arch of evidence.

We have, in this work, then, a brief, but very clear and fair view of the evidences which favor the theory, that the antiquities of America originated in the labors of a branch of the great Cushite family. The difficulties of the theory are not discussed, but the positive proof is certainly strong ; and no one can read this work, without becoming interested in those inquiries, the main results of which it gives so ably and precisely.

In addition to Mr. Delafield's argument, we have in this volume a Preface, by Bishop McIlvaine, respecting the bearing of such inquiries as Mr. Delafield's upon the Bible ; and an Appendix, consisting of a curious paper, by Dr. James Lakey, of Cincinnati, upon the causes of man's superiority in the Northern Hemisphere over his fellow-man in the Southern.

In short, a careful examination of this Western quarto proves it to be as well worthy of attention from the matter it contains, as from the beauty with which that matter is laid before us. It makes us look to the West with new interest, and increases our faith in her rapid and steady intellectual and moral progress ; for the two must go together. She has intellect enough to place her high in useful exertion, and to give new vigor to the mind of all America, if her children can but stand enough aloof from business and politics for a fair exertion of their powers. Mr. Delafield has set them a noble example.

14. — *Desultory Reminiscences of a Tour through Germany, Switzerland, and France.* By an American. Boston : William D. Ticknor. 8vo. pp. 364.

THE young author of this work has shown a sound heart and good head. He has given us his recollections of a tour in Europe, carefully and leisurely prepared, and written out with considerable attention to style. Novelty is not to be expected in a work professing to treat of countries so long trodden by travellers' feet, as Germany, Switzerland, and France. Still an observant and honest tourist may furnish his readers with entertainment and instruction, by reviving the faded images imparted by others, or by putting familiar facts in new lights. The classical scenes, on which the great drama of European history has been enacted, and where the momentous work of civilization and art is still going swiftly on, can never lose their interest. The traveller's tale will always be eagerly read.